

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4 is now pending. Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite that the inhibitor is "an inhibitor of Vav 1 protein". Applicants have also amended claim 4 to recite that the inhibitor of a Vav protein is a Vav1 binding antibody. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled claim 11, which also recited a Vav1 binding antibody, since this elected species is now recited in claim 4. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under §112, first paragraph, written description

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 for alleged lack of written description. The Examiner has suggested that Applicants amend claim 4 to recite "an inhibitor of Vav 1 protein". Applicants thank the Examiner for this suggestion and have amended claim 4 accordingly.

The Examiner has suggested that Applicants amend the claims to recite the elected species of inhibitor of Vav 1 protein, *i.e.*, a Vav1 binding antibody. Applicants thank the Examiner for this suggestion and have amended claim 4 accordingly. Applicants also have canceled claim 11.

Accordingly, the pending claims are now adequately described in the specification. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under §103, obviousness

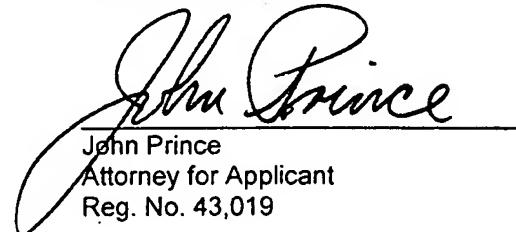
The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 9-10 as allegedly unpatentable in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,323,317 to Hilton *et al.* ("Hilton") in view of Sepulveda *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 275:14005-14008 (2000) ("Sepulveda"). The Examiner alleges that "intended use of the claimed pharmaceutical composition" does not distinguish from prior art which recite pharmaceutical composition comprising a Vav1 inhibitor.. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The claimed compositions are not merely "pharmaceutical composition comprising a Vav1 inhibitor" as alleged by the Examiner. Claim 4 recite a pharmaceutical composition comprising a Vav1 inhibitor in combination with an immunosuppressant. Because the intended use in the treatment of graft rejection, inflammatory or autoimmune diseases is not obvious, there would be no motivation for the one skilled in the art to combine Vav1 inhibitor with an immunosuppressant in a pharmaceutical composition. Therefore, the combination renders the claimed composition non obvious over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, the pharmaceutical composition of claim 4 is not obvious in view of a combination of *Hilton* and *Sepulveda*. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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